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CONTAINER FOR FOOD

The present invention refers to a container for food, especially designed, although not only, for pizzas and the like, formed by a base and a lid that are coupled together.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Current pizza containers are made up of a base of corrugated cardboard sheet and a lid coupled over it. As the container is made from only one sheet, the lid is joined to the base.

This type of container has various drawbacks. 15 Firstly, it is very common that the container with the recently cooked pizza inside is placed directly onto the table, and on opening the container the space that the lid takes up can be a real nuisance.

Furthermore, they also take up a lot of 20 transport and storage space, as although they are made up of only one sheet, the dimensions of it are quite large.

Another drawback is the time it takes to assemble each container. The time required for assembling the containers means that usually a certain amount is 25 mounted and then stored, which means they occupy even more space.

There is another type of containers made of sheet material, preferably cardboard, which are formed of a base and a lid which are coupled together. The coupling 30 between the base and the lid is made by fitting the lid into the top part of the base. However, this type of containers needs some kind of seal or the like, as without it the container can come open if it is accidentally tilted.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

With the container of the invention all the  
aforementioned disadvantages are eliminated, and present  
5 other advantages described below.

The food container of the invention comprises  
two pieces consisting of a base and a lid which can be  
coupled together, both the lid and the base being made of  
at least one layer of sheet material; and it is  
10 characterized in that the coupling means between the lid  
and the base are formed by a rim, provided on the edge of  
one of the pieces of the container, which defines a C-shape  
cavity, a complementary flange provided in the edge of the  
other piece of the container fitting inside said cavity.

15 Thanks to this characteristic, it is obtained a  
container for pizzas and the like made up of a base and lid  
that fit together. Therefore, the container of the  
invention takes up less space when opened if compared to  
currently known pizza containers, as the lid can be removed  
20 from the table, or it can even be used as a plate.

Furthermore, thanks to the aforementioned  
coupling means, no type of seal is necessary to avoid the  
container opening if tilted.

Preferently, the aforementioned rim which  
25 defines a C-shape cavity is provided on the base.

Advantageously, both the base and the lid have  
sloping walls to make storage easier.

Also advantageously, the lid comprises an  
orifice in its sloping wall making it easier to open the  
30 container. This way, the container can be opened by  
inserting a finger into the orifice and raising the lid.

Another point that makes removing the lid easier  
is that the said flange has a cut-out in the area adjacent  
to the aforementioned orifice in the sloping wall of the  
35 lid.

To pile up the containers the base comprises a projection complementary with a cavity provided in the lid, or vice versa.

To make it easier to put the lid in place, it  
5 comprises a series of cuts in its wall directed towards the centre of the lid.

According to a preferred embodiment, both the base and the lid comprise a layer of corrugated cardboard, thus permitting the container to present thermal  
10 insulating properties as well as the desired stiffness.

Advantageously, both the base and the lid comprise an internal layer of anti-grease material and/or an internal layer of thermally insulating material.

Preferently, at least one of the mentioned  
15 layers covers the whole of the base and the lid except the rim or the coupling flange to make production of the container easier and to avoid unnecessary waste of material.

To facilitate the storing of the containers, the  
20 external edge of the lid coincides substantially with the internal edge of the base, so that the lid is placed upside down inside the base, with the said flange being inserted in said C-shape cavity.

To make it easier to remove the lid from inside  
25 the base when they are coupled in the storage or transporting position, when the container of the invention is empty, said rim comprises at least one pair of cuts, each pair of these cuts defining a tongue.

30

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

To better understand all the aforementioned, there are some accompanying drawings which, diagrammatically and only as a non-limitative example, represent a practical  
35 embodiment.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the base and the lid which form the container of the invention separated one from each other;

Figure 2 is an elevation view of one sectioned  
5 end of the container of the present invention, with the base and the lid coupled together;

Figure 3 is an elevation view of two containers of the present invention piled one on top of the other;

Figure 4 shows an elevation view of a container  
10 of the present invention sectioned, with the base and the container coupled in their storage and transporting position when empty; and

Figure 5 is an elevation view of two bases of the container of the present invention coupled together for  
15 its transporting and storage.

#### DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As can be appreciated in figures 1 and 2, the  
20 container of the present invention is formed by a base 1 and a lid 2 which can be coupled together.

To couple the pieces together, the base 1 comprises a rim 3 along its edge which defines a C-shape cavity 4, while the lid 2 comprises a flange 5 which is  
25 fitted into said cavity 4. To make this coupling easier, the lid 2 has a series of cuts 12 distributed around the edge in a suitable way.

To remove the lid 2 an orifice 8 is provided for a finger to be inserted and the lid 2 to be raised. To make  
30 opening the container of the invention even easier, the flange 5 comprises a cut-out 9 in the zone adjacent to the said orifice 8.

Therefore, it is obtained a container made up of two pieces, base 1 and lid 2, it being easy to fit and  
35 remove the lid 2.

In figure 2, it can be appreciated in detail the layers which form both the base 1 and the lid 2. In the case of the represented embodiment, the base 1 and the lid 2 have the same number of layers and said layers present of the same characteristics.

Specifically, and according to the represented embodiment, the lid 2 and the base 1 are made from an intermediate layer 13 of corrugated cardboard, which presents characteristics of adequate thermal insulating and stiffness. Furthermore, the base 1 and the lid 2 comprise an internal layer 14 of an anti-grease material and an external layer 15 of a thermally insulating material. To make production of the invented container easier and to avoid unnecessary waste of material, the internal layer 14 and the external layer 15 do not cover the rim 3 or the flange 5.

As can be clearly appreciated from figure 3, the containers of the present invention can be piled up one on top of the other. This characteristic is achieved by the provision of a projection 10 in the base 1 complementary with a cavity 11 provided in the lid 2, or vice versa, so that when two containers of the present invention are piled up the said projection 10 is fitted inside the complementary cavity 11.

So that the container takes up the least possible space when empty in its storage or transporting position, both the base 1 and the lid 2 have sloping walls 6, 7, so that the internal edge of the base 1 coincides substantially with the external edge of the lid 2, or vice versa. If required, it is also possible to transport and store the lids 2 piled one on top of the other independently of the bases 1, which will also be piled one on top of the other. These storage positions can be appreciated clearly in figures 4 and 5.

To make it easier to remove the lid 2 in the

storage position when the lid 2 is placed upside down on the base 1, there are provided some cuts 16 (figure 1) which define tongues 17. If removal of the lid 2 from the base 1 is required, simply pulling one of the said tongues  
5 17 gives access to the flange 5, which when pulled removes the lid 2.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been referred to, it is evident to a person skilled in the art that the described container is susceptible to  
10 numerous variations and modifications, and that all the aforementioned details can be substituted by technically equivalent others, without departing from the scope of protection defined by the appended claims.

## C L A I M S

1. Container for food, which comprises two pieces comprising a base (1) and a lid (2) which can be  
5 coupled together, both the lid and the base are formed of at least one layer of sheet material, characterized in that the coupling means between the lid (2) and the base (1) are formed by a rim (3), provided on the edge of one of the pieces of the container, which defines a C-shape cavity  
10 (4), into which a complementary flange (5), provided on the edge of the other piece of the container, is fitted.

2. Container according to claim 1, characterized in that the said rim (3) which defines a C shape (4) is provided on the base (1).

15 3. Container according to claim 1, characterized in that both the base (1) and the lid (2) have sloping walls (6, 7).

4. Container according to claim 3, characterized in that the lid (2) comprises an orifice (8) in its  
20 sloping wall (7) to make opening the container easier.

5. Container according to claims 3 and 4, characterized in that the said flange (5) present a cut-out (9) in the zone adjacent to said orifice (8) provided on the sloping wall (7) of the lid (2).

25 6. Container according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that the base (1) comprises a projection (10) complementary with a complementary cavity (11) provided on the lid (2), or vice versa.

7. Container according to anyone of the previous  
30 claims, characterized in that the lid (2) comprises a series of cuts (12) in its wall (7) directed towards the centre of the lid (2).

8. Container according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that both the base (1) and the  
35 lid (2) comprise a layer of corrugated cardboard (13).

9. Container according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that both the base (1) and the lid (2) comprise an internal layer (14) of anti-grease material.

5           10. Container according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that both the base (1) and the lid (2) comprise an external layer (15) of thermally insulating material.

10           11. Container according to the claims 8, 9 and 10, characterized in that said at least one of said layers covers all of the base (1) and all of the lid (2) except the rim (3) or the coupling flange (5).

15           12. Container according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that the outside edge of the lid (2) coincides substantially with the internal edge of the base (1), said flange (5) fitting inside said C-shape cavity (4).

20           13. Container according to claim 13, characterized in that it comprises at least a pair of cuts (16) provided on said rim (3), each pair of these cuts (16) defining a tongue (17).



FIG.1

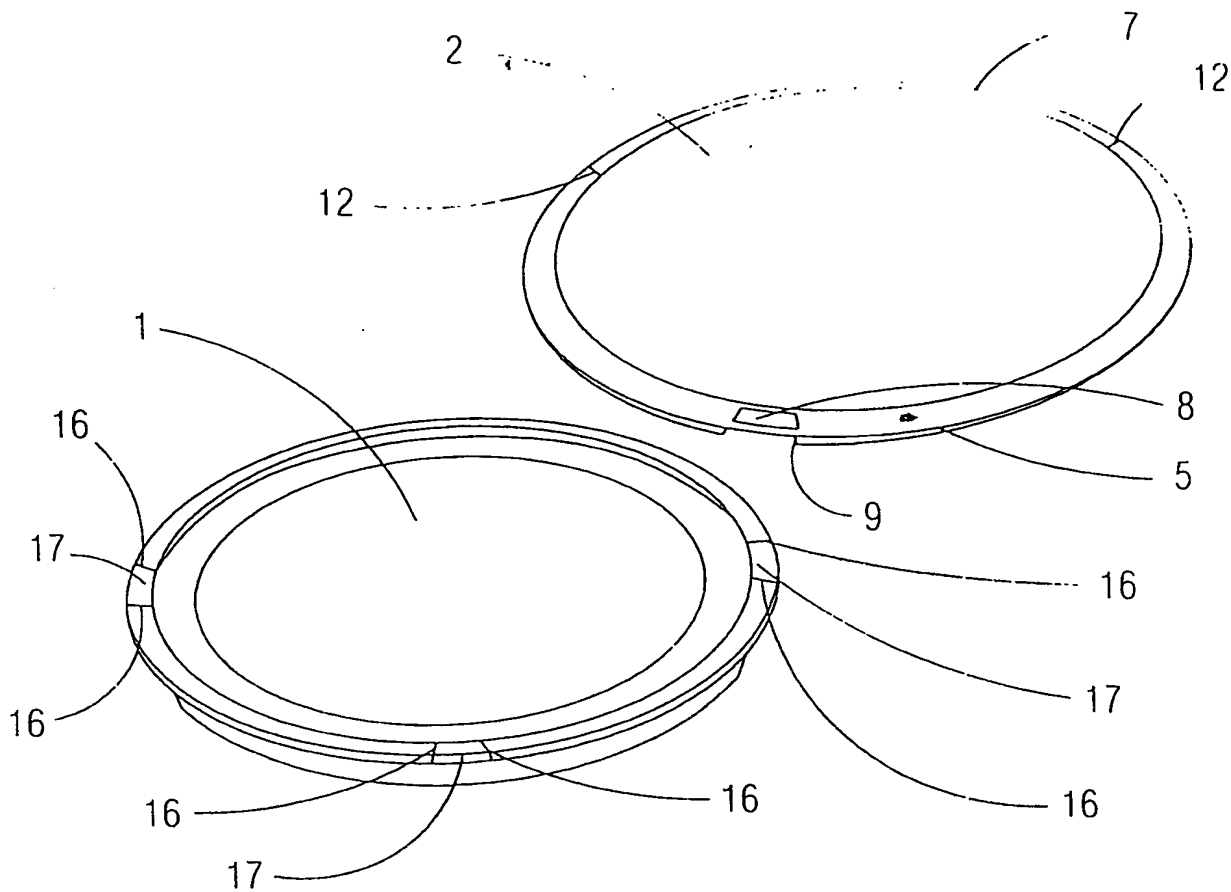


FIG.2

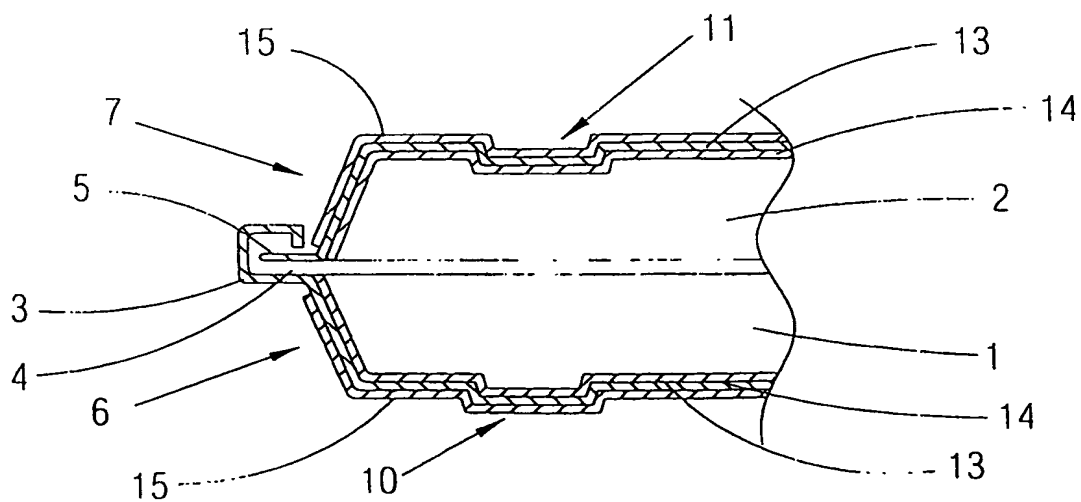


FIG.3

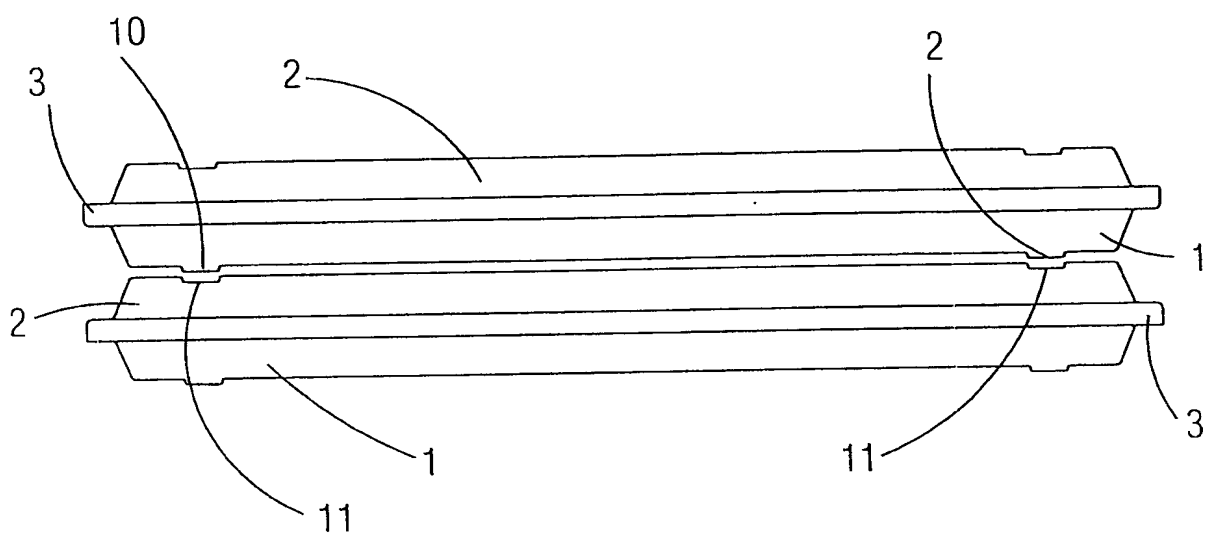


FIG.4

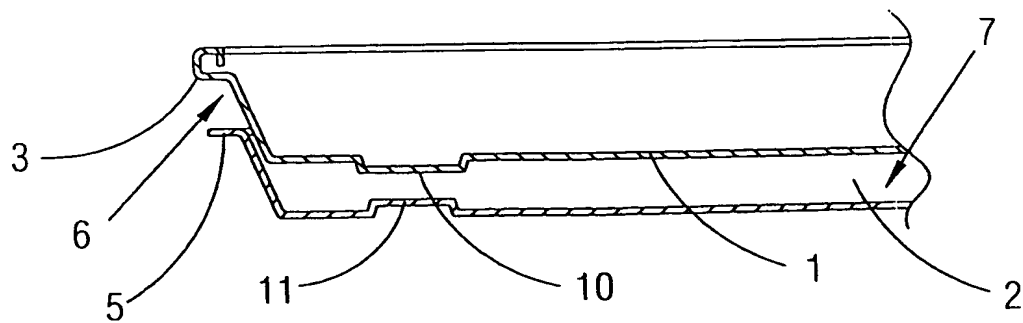


FIG.5

